

#### In other news

March 7, 2019

### RoboRave makes science hands-on for Northern New Mexico students

On March 2, more than 200 students tested their science and engineering knowledge, critical thinking, and teamwork skills by competing with their robots at the RoboRave Rally and Science Showdown at Northern New Mexico College in Española.

More than 70 student robotics teams (from elementary to high school age) from across the region (including Taos, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Los Alamos, Springer, Española, Abiquiu and Santa Clara) built and programmed their autonomous robots to take part in a range of events including line-following, navigating a maze, and robot jousting.

In addition to the fifth annual rally, attendees and competitors got to enjoy hands-on STEM demonstrations and activities from education partners including Explora, Twirl Play and Discovery Space, and the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC), and Laboratory volunteers. "These activities engage students to think critically and improve their problem solving which helps them gain confidence," said Janelle Vigil-Maestas of the Laboratory's Community Partnerships Office, who organized the event.

Scholarship recipients John Montoya from Las Vegas (left), is studying nursing at Luna Community College, and Meaghan Nieto from Santa Fe is studying radiation protection at Northern New Mexico College and hopes to work at the Laboratory in the future.

# Northern New Mexico Students receive LAESF scholarships

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Foundation recently awarded 16 Regional College/Returning Student (RCRS) Scholarships to students from Northern New Mexico, with funding primarily contributed by Laboratory employees. The scholarships support individuals seeking a certification or two-year degree from a local accredited college, university or trade school after a gap in formal education.

RCRS Scholarships are offered twice yearly to students who are residents of Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe and Taos counties pursuing post-secondary education in any field of study including trades. The RCRS program is part of the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF), the largest scholarship pool in Northern New Mexico, and the program and funds are managed by the LANL Foundation, with oversight and outreach provided by a volunteer advisory committee

made up of donors. Since 1999, LANL Foundation and LAESF have awarded \$6.8 million to more than 1,500 students.

Attendees at the 2018 Summer Physics Camp for Young Women.

#### Free summer science camp opportunity

Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico Consortium, and Pojoaque Valley High School are hosting a free two-week Summer Physics Camp for Young Women June 10-21, and are looking for students interested in applying. The camp will focus on boosting an understanding of the physics of the Sun, Earth, and everything in between, as well as introduce students on how to make some tasks fun by learning computer programming basics. The camp will also outline opportunities for internships at the Laboratory, and include demonstrations, hands-on experiments, and discussions with female scientists and engineers from Los Alamos National Laboratory. One day will be dedicated to visiting the Laboratory's research facilities. The camp is open to young women attending high school in Northern New Mexico who have completed Algebra I or a high-level math course, and participants who complete the program will be provided a stipend. The closing date to apply is April 15, and there are more details here.

## Santa Fe Community College and Northern New Mexico College to offer free EPA job training program

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) is collaborating with Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) to offer a free environmental technician training program on NNMC's campus in Española. The New Mexico Environmental Workforce Job Training Program is a free five-week intensive training designed to prepare its graduates to enter the expanding environmental job market. The training runs 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, May 20 through June 21 at NNMC in Española and sessions will be conducted by instructors from SFCC's nationally-ranked workforce development program. Training costs for unemployed, underemployed, or low-income applicants who are accepted into the program will be covered by an Environmental Protection Agency grant.

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